

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-04

EA-06 FRB-01 INR-05 IO-04 NEA-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 SWF-01

OMB-01 HEW-02 DRC-01 SS-15 NSC-05 OIC-01 STR-01 FTC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC 3899

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 24269

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR KNAUER AND CAVAGNARO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND- OECD

SUBJECT: MEETINGS OF WORKING PARTIES ON LABELING, PRO-
DUCT SAFETY, AND CONSUMER CREDIT: OECD CONSUMER
POLICY COMMITTEE, SEPT. 30 - OCT. 3

1. SUMMARY: MEETINGS WERE PRINCIPALLY TO REVISE RE-
PORTS. NO NEW INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN. CONSUMER CREDIT
OF GREAT INTEREST. LABELING AND SAFETY WORKING PARTIES
DEALT WITH GUIDELINES FOR PACKAGE LABELING AND STANDARD-
IZATION, AND HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD SUBSTANCES. PROGRESS
SLOW, BUT WP REFLECTED MAJOR CONSUMER CONCERN IN THESE
AREAS. US REPRESENTED IN ALL MEETINGS BY C.R. CAVA-
GNARO, OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, DHEW. NEXT MEETINGS
OF THESE 3 WORKING PARTIES SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 17-21,
1975. END SUMMARY

2. FIRST MEETING OF WP 4 (CONSUMER CREDIT) HELD SEPT.30
REVIEWED DRAFT CCP/74.42 ON CONSUMER PROTECTION REGARD-
ING CONSUMER CREDIT. DOCUMENT TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY RE-
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VISED. US HAS MAJOR EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA AND REPORT

OF NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CONSUMER CREDIT ISSUED DECEMBER 1972 WAS SUGGESTED BY US AS MODEL FOR FORMAT AND SUBSTANCE. COPY OF NCCC REPORT AND ITS COMPREHENSIVE TECHNICAL STUDIES WAS GIVEN SECRETARIAT AS AID TO REDRAFTING REPORT TO BE CONSIDERED AT NEXT MARCH MEETING. US TO SUPPLY BY NOVEMBER 1 A BRIEF REPORT ON FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT AND UPDATE OF CONSUMER CREDIT STATISTICS CONTAINED IN EARLIER US REPORT.

3. WP2 (PRODUCT LABELING) CONSIDERED REPORTS ON UNIT PRICING, SLACK FILL, PACKAGING STANDARDIZATION, AND PROPOSALS ON WARNING LABELS FOR HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS. UNIT PRICING REPORT (WP2/49) OF GREAT INTEREST TO ALL, ESPECIALLY FRANCE WHICH IS ATTEMPTING TO APPLY IT TO SMALL SHOP MARKETING SYSTEM. REPORTS TO BE REVISED BY SECRETARIAT. (US NOTED COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON US UNIT PRICING EXPERIENCE EXPECTED IN A FORTHCOMING GAO REPORT ON FAIR LABELING AND PACKAGING ACT, AND AGREED TO SUPPLY COPY OF REPORT TO SECRETARIAT WHEN AVAILABLE.)

4. REPORT WP2/35 - STANDARDIZATION OF PACKAGING FOR PACKAGED CONSUMER PRODUCTS NEARING FINAL DRAFT STAGE AFTER ONE YEAR. CHANGES MOSTLY EDITORIAL. EACH COUNTRY ASKED TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON REPORT, PARTICULARLY CONCLUSIONS SECTION, BY NOV. 15.

5. REPORT ON DECEPTIVE PACKAGING/SLACK-FILL WP2/48 BASED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON US SUBMISSION TO FTC AND COMMENTS MOSTLY EDITORIAL. US WAS OBVIOUS LEADER IN SLACK-FILL REGULATION. EACH COUNTRY TO REVIEW AND COMMENT BY NOV. 15. (AFTER SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED, SECRETARIAT WILL REVISE THE THREE REPORTS (WP2/35-48-49) AND COMBINE INTO A SINGLE DOCUMENT FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING).

6. A CANADIAN PAPER (WP2/45) REGARDING POLICY ISSUES IN STANDARDIZATION ON PACKAGING FOR PREPACKAGED CONSUMER PRODUCTS DISCUSSES DESIRABILITY, ESPECIALLY FOR ENHANCING WORLD TRADE, CF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PROPOSES ESTABLISHING AN INFORMAL MECHANISM TO ENHANCE, VIA EARLY WARNING, COORDINATION OF STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT. US STRONGLY OBJECTED TO ESTABLISHING A DUPLICATIVE STANDARDS EXCHANGE AND REPORTING PROCESS; YIELD ALSO DOUBTFUL. IT WAS AGREED THAT PRIOR TO DECISION BEING TAKEN, WP NEEDED MORE INFORMATION ON EXISTING STANDARDS COORDINATING MECHANISMS. (CANADA ASKED TO DRAFT AND CIRCULATE SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR EXCHANGE, AND EACH COUN-

TRY TO REPORT ORALLY AT NEXT MEETING ON AVAILABLE EX-
CHANGE MECHANISMS. HOWEVER, US DOES NOT ANTICIPATE THIS
PROPOSAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.) CONSIDERATION ALSO GIVEN
TO A CANADIAN PROPOSAL TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF
STANDARD WARNING LABELS FOR HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS.
(SWITZERLAND JUST INAUGURATED NEW WARNING LABELS FOR
TOXIC AND CAUSTIC SUBSTANCES). US RESTATED POSITION

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-06

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THAT WE SUPPORT NEED FOR WORK IN THIS AREA AND SUGGEST
OECD CONVEY THIS SENSE OF URGENCY TO
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATION (ISO) AND OTHER
APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATIONS. CANADA CONCURRED WITH US,
BUT OECD SECRETARIAT INDICATED NO PROCEDURES EXIST
FOR COMMUNICATING OECD RECOMMENDATIONS TO STANDARDS
ORGANIZATIONS. IT WAS AGREED CANADA WOULD DRAFT BRIEF
POSITION PAPER INCLUDING GUIDELINES FOR REVIEW AT NEXT
MEETING. THIS PAPER LIKELY TO RECEIVE APPROVAL, AND
US WILL EXPLORE WITH CANADA MEANS OF TRANSMITTING PAPER
TO STANDARDS ORGANIZATIONS VIA OECD.

7. WP 3 (CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY) CONSIDERED WP3/25, "PRINCIPLES OF ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS IN RELATION TO SAFETY OF TOYS", DRAFTED BY CHAIRMAN. COMMENTS WERE ESSENTIALLY EDITORIAL AND REVISION WILL BE INCORPORATED IN AN "INTERIM REPORT ON SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR TOYS". US TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON BOTH DOCUMENTS BY DECEMBER 1, 1974. NEW DOCUMENT WP3/27 SUMMARIZES REPORTS OF 4 COUNTRIES ON THEIR FLAMMABILITY REGULATIONS. UNCLASSIFIED

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TIONS. CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED FUTURE WORK BE INCORPORATED INTO REGULAR REPORT ON NEW FLAMMABLE REGULATIONS. US AGREED TO DEVELOP A BRIEF COMPARISON OF CURRENT REGULATIONS FOR USE IN THE REPORT. DELEGATIONS WERE ASKED TO REPORT STATISTICAL SUMMARIES RE FATAL/NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS INVOLVING TEXTILES AND TOYS. REPORT DUE JAN. 1, 1975. TURNER

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